

WOLF WATCH

— WEEKLY E-NEWS —

News for the Week of February 3

All School

Summer on the Point Registration Opens Tomorrow

Summer on the Point registration opens tomorrow, **Monday, February 4, at 10:00 a.m.**

- **Summer sessions will run June 3-28 and July 8-August 2 for students 3 years old through grade 10.**
- Yearly favorites will return, and new camps are coming for summer 2019—including baseball, photography, fashion design, speed and agility sessions, field hockey, lacrosse, coding, LEGO design, self-defense, newly redesigned math sessions for Middle and Upper School grades, and many more. [Click here](#) for camp descriptions and to download the **Summer on the Point brochure**.
- Starting tomorrow at 10:00 a.m., registration will be available through "Program Registration" in My BackPack. (Please note that the registration portal is down today as we prepare to open summer registration.)

This Tuesday: Parents Association General Meeting

The Parents Association General Meeting will take place this **Tuesday, February 5, at 10:00 a.m. in the Andrews House on the South Campus**. A special tour of the Upper School will follow the meeting.

The General Meeting is open to all parents and is an opportunity to hear reports from PA committee chairs and to participate in a discussion of matters as they pertain to PA business.

Gala Online Auction Opens Wednesday!

We hope you've received your Gala invitation (disguised as a composition book) in the mail and are planning to attend! [Click here](#) to get your tickets.

The online silent auction starts at noon on Wednesday, February 6. [Click here](#) to browse and bid on trips, sports tickets, home items, dining and spa packages, family experiences, and much more. Of course, class art projects and prime spots for the carpool line will also be up for grabs!

Wednesday Is Deadline to Sign Up for Safeguarding God's Children

If you volunteer at St. Francis Episcopal School and will be in your child's classroom or another teaching area more than six times, the Episcopal Diocese requires certification in Safeguarding God's Children, a child protective program. Also, if you go into a classroom without your child present (such as through Art à la Carte or on People for Others Day), you are required to be certified before your first visit.

- Our next class will be taught by Father Bob Wismer this **Friday, February 8, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.** on the Main Campus.
- You must **sign up for the class** with Rose Ann Gregory [via e-mail](#) or by calling 713.458.6101 **no later than this Wednesday, February 6**, to allow time to complete the initial paperwork.
- If you want to take the class in order to volunteer for the St. Francis Sports Association, the Scouts, or other St. Francis Episcopal Church activities such as Sunday School, please contact [Cindy Hutson](#).

Sports Association Registration Closes February 22

Registration closes for St. Francis Sports Association T-ball, baseball, softball, and fourth- and fifth-grade girls volleyball on Friday, February 22.

This season, we will be hosting multiple clinics exclusively for SFSA athletes, including the following: Volleyball with Coach McMillian, Pitching (Softball)

with Coach Cain, and Fielding/Hitting with Coach Cain. We will also host a coaches' clinic for each sport!

[Register online here.](#)

With questions, please e-mail [Ragan Cain](#).

Woolrich Luncheon Is March 5—Tickets On Sale Now!

Please join us for the 15th Annual Sarah W. Woolrich Fund for Faculty Awards Luncheon on **Tuesday, March 5**. Let us know if you're planning to attend by either registering for the luncheon [online](#) or returning the reply card from your mailed invitation by **Monday, February 25**. At the luncheon, you'll hear extraordinary accounts from our 2017–18 Woolrich Award recipients:

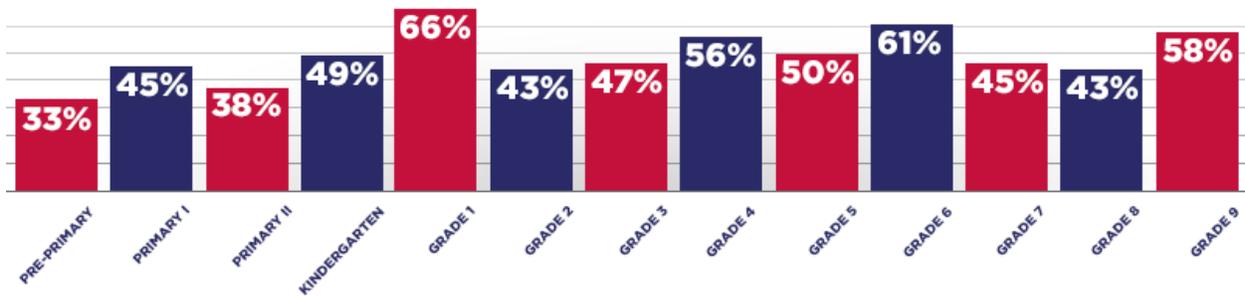
- Alison Salinas traveled to Germany to study the collections of the Brothers Grimm.
- Angela Flowers traveled behind the former Iron Curtain to study the impact and lasting effects of the Holocaust and World War II.
- Kimberly Dunn received training in Krav Maga mixed martial arts and self-defense.
- Amy Chandler and Julia Traber traveled to Japan to study art and theater.
- Melanie Wallace and Lydia Urbanek traveled to France to study the cultural roots of fiction and fairy tales.
- Carlo Minotti received training in welding and fabrication.

We hope you can join us to hear about these educators' summertime adventures—which were made possible by the Sarah W. Woolrich Fund for Faculty—and how these unique opportunities are helping to bring classroom learning to life!

To learn more about the Woolrich Fund or the Woolrich Luncheon, please [e-mail us](#) or call 713.458.6169.

St. Francis Fund Participation Challenge Update

PARENT PARTICIPATION BY GRADE



First Grade is still in the lead! Sixth grade and ninth grade are not far behind. The following grades all increased in participation since last week: Primary II, first grade, second grade, fifth grade, and ninth grade. Keep up the good work!

To date, the St. Francis Fund has raised just over \$670,000, which is 84 percent of our \$800,000 goal. The goal for parent participation is 100 percent. Each gift counts tremendously.

The Participation Challenge ends **Friday, March 8**. The grade with the highest participation in supporting the St. Francis Fund will be treated to a pizza party with Mr. Lovejoy on **Wednesday, March 20**.

[Please make your gift to the St. Francis Fund today!](#)

The St. Francis Fund permeates everything that we do daily at St. Francis. As is the case at other schools, our tuition only covers a portion of our operating budget. That gap is made up by the St. Francis Fund.

The St. Francis Fund helps with things like employee benefits and salaries, professional development, all student academic and extracurricular activities, and even parent initiatives that are school-funded. Examples include textbooks, instructional materials, laptops, security officers, active shooter training for faculty and staff, and more! The St. Francis Fund makes it all

happen and, without it, programs and personnel would have to be cut due to the budget shortfall created by the difference between tuition income and expenses.

Please contact Director of Annual and Alumni Giving [Laura Lanigan](#) with any questions. Thank you for your support of this important effort!

Dr. Stixrud Visit Recap—and Thanks!

Thank you to everyone who attended this week's Parent Education seminar on *The Self-Driven Child*. Dr. William Stixrud was a huge hit with our community and provided some valuable insights into successful parenting.

For those who missed out on the live seminar, I encourage you to purchase his book. Here are some highlights from his lecture and some take-home advice:

- Two reasons why control is such a big deal:
 - Stress-related mental health problems reflect low control.
 - Healthy self-motivation depends on autonomy.
- A sense of control is good for the following:
 - Health and longevity
 - Mental health and emotional well-being
 - Internal motivation and self-control
 - Learning and academic performance
 - Career success
- Parents should take on the role of “consultant” vs. “boss” or “dictator.”
- Stress is contagious (and so is calm).
 - If we, as parents, are anxious, we make our children more anxious.

- When we are calm, we can support autonomy.
- Ideally, the home environment should be a safe refuge.

We look forward to seeing everyone at our next Parents Association event. Please **save the date for the Spring Luncheon at Houston Country Club on Wednesday, April 3**. More information on that soon!

Please Share the Word! Upcoming US Admissions Tours

Our best advertising is word-of-mouth, so please tell your friends and neighbors to come learn more about St. Francis at one of our Upper School Admissions Tours, which are **held most Wednesdays at 9:00 a.m.**

Primary School

From the Division Head

Years ago, I visited a jeweler to inquire about having a ring made from one that had been my mother's. I chatted with the owner about his children and mine, and we discussed the high school where our older children were enrolled. In the store's showroom, there was a portrait of a woman, and I asked the jeweler if she was a relative.

He told me the amazing story of how his family had immigrated to the United States from Nicaragua, forced to leave everything behind in their war-torn country. For generations, his family had been jewelers, but the gold and gems that they depended upon to support their business were confiscated. The beginning of their new life in this country was not easy, but a lesson from his grandmother—the woman in the portrait—had made a lifelong impact on him.

“She always told us that there are two things that they can never take away from you: your faith and your education,” he said.

I've thought about that conversation many times. I've never faced loss of that magnitude, but I continue to appreciate the perspective it provides. If everything material is lost, you still have all that you've learned and all that you believe in.

During the last month, we have had the pleasure of welcoming many prospective families to the Primary School for admissions tours. They are

immediately impressed with our campus and the facility that so beautifully meets the needs of our Reggio-inspired philosophy. However, our joyful students and passionate teachers are what stand out to them most. I'm pleased that they see that what is most important is what happens within the walls of our amazing school.

As we look ahead to next year and your child's school progression, I hope you will reflect on the moments of faith and education that have been most meaningful to your child and your family at St. Francis. We look forward to you being with us next year as we grow together.

Warmly,

Amy Whitley, MA
Head of Primary School

Primary II Parents, Join Us This Wednesday!

If you're currently a Primary II parent, you'll be movin' on up to Lower School before you know it—and there's no better time than now to learn about your next step! On Wednesday, February 6, St. Francis's Lower School team will introduce you to all of the innovative teaching methods they use. You will also hear from Head of Lower School Carol Christ and her team about the joyful daily life your child will enjoy in their division, and all of the ways St. Francis helps students grow into confident young leaders.

Join us this Wednesday at 8:30 a.m. in the Hogan Board Room on the Main Campus to see classes in action and to learn about our educational philosophy, Episcopal identity, curriculum, athletics program, arts, and much more!

Please help us plan by letting us know you are coming. RSVP [here](#).

Friendly Reminder Regarding Valentine's Day Treats

The following information is located on page 30 of the *Primary School Handbook*, which is available on the Parent Portal in the "Back to School General Info" section under "Primary School Division Information":

GOODIE BAG AND TREAT POLICY

Primary School students may not give gifts, goodie bags, or treats for any

occasion. Students may have food allergies, and gifts of candy and cookies could pose a serious health hazard. In addition, small toys and trinkets in goodie bags can easily become a choking risk. Therefore, goodie bags and gifts—as well as cupcakes, cookies, and other treats—are not allowed. **For Valentine’s Day parties, cards without candy are preferred; however, if a card has candy attached, the candy will not be consumed at school and will be sent home.**

Primary School Dining Hall Menu

To view the Primary School Dining Hall menu, please click [here](#).

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, February 4

- *Online Registration Opens for Summer on the Point*
-

Tuesday, February 5

- *Chapel: 9:30 a.m.*
-

Wednesday, February 6

- *Primary II Parent Tour of Lower School: 8:30 a.m. in the HBR on the Main Campus*
 - *Chapel: 9:30 a.m.*
 - *Online Gala Auction Begins at Noon*
-

Monday, February 11

- *Re-enrollment Contracts Due*

Tuesday, February 12

- *Chapel:* 9:30 a.m.

Wednesday, February 13

- *Chapel:* 9:30 a.m.

Monday, February 18

- *Presidents' Day:* School Holiday

Tuesday, February 19

- *Chapel:* 9:30 a.m.

Wednesday, February 20

- *Chapel:* 9:30 a.m.

Friday, February 22

- *Darla McNay Rodeo Day:* Students may dress in western wear; no guns or spurs, please
-

Saturday, February 23

- *St. Francis Gala and Auction*: 6:00-11:30 p.m. at Royal Sonesta (2222 West Loop South)
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Tuesday, February 26

- *Chapel*: 9:30 a.m.
-

Wednesday, February 27

- *Chapel*: 9:30 a.m.
-

Tuesday, March 5

- *Chapel*: 9:30 a.m.

Lower School

From the Division Head

I hope you had a restful weekend!

As I explained previously in *Wolf Watch*, our teachers are taking time to observe one another, highlight trends, and debrief on new learning. These Learning Walks promote a growth mindset and a collaborative community. Our students think it is really cool that teachers are learning from each other, just as our kindergarteners through fourth graders learn from each other every day. We will conduct another round of Learning Walks in late February.

Last Wednesday, I was SO fortunate to have the assistance of Keaton Wolf and Beau Livingstone, who served as **heads of Lower School for the day**. They actually took part in some Learning Walks and did a great job identifying what was working well in classrooms! I will welcome Madeleine McKenzie in February as another **head of Lower School for the day**. WOW! I am lucky to

have so many helpers!!! We are truly grateful for all the gifts parents make to our school—both financial gifts and gifts of time.

These new heads also declared **Thursday, February 7, as FREE DRESS DAY** for Lower School students and faculty. Students may wear appropriate play clothes, per the *Lower School Handbook*.

A project our heads for the day also helped us accomplish was to create the **Lower School “Acts of Kindness” Calendar** for February. Click [here](#) to see how we all can do our part to spread kindness. This was presented to the students in our Alpha Meeting last Friday, and they all have received a copy. As Aesop reminds us, “No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted.”

A reminder about **Valentine’s Day**: This year we will have class-sponsored Valentine’s parties.

One classroom is hosting the party for the entire grade. Thank you for only attending the party if your homeroom is hosting and if you are assisting with the party. We also ask that siblings not attend the parties, as the focus should be on the classroom students. Siblings can be distracting and prevent parents from fully executing their roles. Students may bring cards for fellow classmates, and cards without candy are preferred; however, if a card has candy attached, the candy will not be consumed at school and will be sent home. You will be receiving more information about cards from your homeroom teachers.

Have a wonderful week, and don’t hesitate to reach out to any of us if you have questions!

Have a blessed week!

Carol Christ, MEd
Head of Lower School

Doodle for Google Art Contest: Calling All LS Students

Calling all students who are interested in participating in the [Doodle for Google Art Contest](#)! This year’s theme is “When I grow up, I hope . . .” and we can’t wait to see the fantastic wishes or practical plans our Lower School students come up with. Anything you dream up is fair game, whether it’s sky

cities, teleporters, cleaner water, pizza trees, time machines, edible clouds, or Earth-cooling fans.

Artists, here's what to do:

- Complete the [entry form](#) or pick one up at school from Mrs. Chandler or Mrs. Tennant. (School-year groups are K-3 and 4-5.)
- Create your Doodle using any materials you want.
- Write an artist statement that describes the drawing and how it represents something that inspires you. Be sure to also fill out the rest of the required information and sign the entry form.

Submit your Doodle to either Mrs. Chandler or Mrs. Tennant by Monday, March 4.

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, February 4

- *Birthday Chapel:* Students with a birthday between February 3-9 will receive a birthday pencil in Chapel today
 - *Online Registration Opens for Summer on the Point*
-

Wednesday, February 6

- *Chapel:* 8:05 a.m.
 - *Primary II Parent Tour of Lower School:* 8:30 a.m. in the HBR
 - *Online Gala Auction Begins at Noon*
-

Thursday, February 7

- *Free Dress Day for Lower School:* Please see the head's letter in "From the Division Head," above, for details
-

Friday, February 8

- *100th Day of School*
-

Monday, February 11

- *Birthday Chapel:* Students with a birthday between February 10-16 will receive a birthday pencil in Chapel today
 - *Re-enrollment Contracts Due*
-

Wednesday, February 13

- *FAC Chapel:* 8:05 a.m.
-

Thursday, February 14

- *Valentine's Day Parties*
-

Monday, February 18

- *Presidents' Day:* School holiday
-

Wednesday, February 20

- *Birthday Chapel*: Students with a birthday between February 17-23 will receive a birthday pencil in Chapel today
-

Thursday, February 21

- *STEAM Fair Parent Preview*: 8:15-9:15 a.m. in the Library
-

Friday, February 22

- *Go Texan Day*: Children are encouraged to wear western wear; please leave guns, spurs, and stick horses at home. Also bring tennis shoes for PE and/or recess if wearing boots. Yee-haw!
-

Saturday, February 23

- *St. Francis Gala and Auction*: 6:00-11:30 p.m. at Royal Sonesta (2222 West Loop South)
-

Monday, February 25

- *Birthday Chapel*: Students with a birthday between February 24-March 2 will receive a birthday pencil in Chapel today
- *Report Cards Online*

Middle School

From the Division Head

Happy Sunday, Middle School families! I hope this finds you well today. Hello, February!

Thanks to Paola Lehman and our Parents Association for bringing Dr. William Stixrud to campus this past Wednesday. Faculty, parents, and students learned a great deal from Dr. Stixrud's research-informed, firsthand knowledge of how to better parent and teach our kids. Some memorable quotes from the day were:

- "I love you too much to fight with you about your homework."
- "It's your call (referencing a student's decision), but let's weigh the pros and cons together."
- "Teachers open the door, but you must enter."

For more information about Dr. Stixrud, please [click here](#). For more on the book *The Self-Driven Child*, which he co-authored with Ned Johnson, [click here](#).

[This New York Times piece](#) from author David Brooks has gone viral on Twitter and various social media outlets recently in the education world, and I think it speaks to what we do here at St. Francis. The article discusses one of the overarching points that Dr. Stixrud made this past week: the teacher and the positive, constructive relationship that teacher builds with a student far outweighs the curriculum that teacher delivers to the student. We build relationships here, and we want those relationships to last a lifetime.

We've got a busy week ahead of us, so keep things in front of you, and have a great one!

It's a beautiful day, and we are Wolves!

Sincerely,

Connor Cook, EdD
Head of Middle School

Seventh-Grade WEB Applications Due Thursday

During class meeting this past Thursday, we spoke to interested seventh graders about applying to be an eighth-grade WEB (Where Everybody Belongs) leader.

- The WEB Peer Counselor application was e-mailed to parents of seventh graders on Thursday, January 31.
- **This application is due back to Spencer Duran by Thursday, February 7, at 3:00 p.m.** No late applications will be accepted.
- Please be sure to read the entire application and look closely at the mandatory training dates. If a student cannot attend a mandatory training date in April or August, they cannot be a WEB leader.
- Due to the nature of the WEB program, a maximum of 10 boys and 10 girls are able to be selected as eighth-grade WEB leaders.
- [Contact Mr. Duran](#) with any questions or concerns.

Doodle for Google Art Contest: Calling All MS Students

Calling all students who are interested in participating in the [Doodle for Google Art Contest](#)! This year's theme is "When I grow up, I hope . . ." and we can't wait to see the fantastic wishes or practical plans our Middle School students come up with. Anything you dream up is fair game, whether it's sky cities, teleporters, cleaner water, pizza trees, time machines, edible clouds, or Earth-cooling fans.

Artists, here's what to do:

- Complete the [entry form](#) or pick one up at school from Mrs. Chandler or Mrs. Tennant. (School-year groups are 4-5, 6-7, and 8-9.)
- Create your Doodle using any materials you want.
- Write an artist statement that describes the drawing and how it represents something that inspires you. Be sure to also fill out the rest of the required information and sign the entry form.

Submit your Doodle to either Mrs. Chandler or Mrs. Tennant by Monday, March 4.

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, February 4

- *Monday Schedule/Casual Dress Day*
 - *MS Super Bowl Construction Ingathering: Through February 8; in the FAC*
 - *NJHS Read Aloud (Various): Through February 8*
 - *Online Registration Opens for Summer on the Point*
 - *Chapel: 10:45-11:15 a.m.*
 - *End of Winter Athletics Season Honor the Wolves: 3:00-5:00 p.m. in the FAC, gym, and classrooms*
-

Tuesday, February 5

- *Tuesday Schedule/Regular Uniform*
 - *Bible Study for Eighth Graders: 7:15-7:45 a.m. in the Christian Education rooms at the end of the Middle School hallway*
 - *Eighth-Grade Field Trip to Holocaust Museum: 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.*
 - *Advisory: 10:45-11:15 a.m.*
 - *Spring Athletics Season Begins: 3:00-5:00 p.m. in the gym and on the fields*
-

Wednesday, February 6

- *Wednesday Schedule/Regular Uniform*

- *Bible Study for Seventh Graders: 7:15-7:45 a.m. in the Christian Education rooms at the end of the Middle School hallway*
 - *Chapel: 10:45-11:15 a.m.*
 - *Online Gala Auction Begins at Noon*
-

Thursday, February 7

- *Thursday Schedule for Grades 5, 6, and 8*
 - *Special Schedule for Grade 7*
 - *Regular Uniform*
 - *Bible Study for Fifth and Sixth Graders: 7:15-7:45 a.m. in the Christian Education rooms at the end of the Middle School hallway*
 - *Seventh-Grade Field Trip to See Newsies: 8:30-11:30 a.m. at Stratford High School*
 - *MS Councils Meeting: 9:15-10:00 a.m. in classrooms*
 - *Seventh-Grade WEB Applications Due: Turn in to Mr. Duran by 3:00 p.m.*
-

Friday, February 8

- *Friday Schedule for Grades 5-7*
- *Special Schedule for Grade 8*
- *SFES Spirit Dress*
- *NJHS Meeting: 7:15-7:50 a.m. in Dr. Bedard's classroom*
- *Advisory: 10:45-11:15 a.m.*

- *Eighth-Grade Field Trip to Top Golf: 12:15-2:30 p.m.*
 - *Fifth-Grade Game Night: 5:00-7:30 p.m. in the FAC*
 - *MS Winter Dance for Grades 6-8: 7:30-10:00 p.m. in the gym; theme is “Winter Wonderland: Dance Under the Lights”; students only*
-

Sunday, February 10

- *Spring Musical (Sunday Rehearsal): 1:00-5:00 p.m. in the FAC*
-

Monday, February 11

- *Monday Schedule/Dress Uniform*
 - *Re-enrollment Contracts Due*
 - *NJHS Read Aloud (Various): Through February 15*
 - *Chapel: 10:45-11:15 a.m.*
-

Tuesday, February 12

- *Tuesday Schedule/Regular Uniform*
 - *Bible Study for Eighth Graders: 7:15-7:45 a.m. in the Christian Education rooms at the end of the Middle School hallway*
 - *Advisory: 10:45-11:15 a.m.*
-

Wednesday, February 13

- *Wednesday Schedule/Regular Uniform*

- *Bible Study for Seventh Graders: 7:15-7:45 a.m. in the Christian Education rooms at the end of the Middle School hallway*
 - *Chapel: 10:45-11:15 a.m.*
-

Thursday, February 14

- *Thursday Schedule/Regular Uniform*
- *Bible Study for Fifth and Sixth Graders: 7:15-7:45 a.m. in the Christian Education rooms at the end of the Middle School hallway*
- *Class Meeting: 9:15-10:00 a.m. in the FAC*

Please do not bring gifts or treats for individuals on Valentine's Day. We do not want to exclude anyone.

Friday, February 15

- *Friday Schedule/SFES Spirit Dress*
 - *Advisory: 10:45-11:25 a.m.*
-

Monday, February 18

- *Presidents' Day: School Holiday*
-

Tuesday, February 19

- *Tuesday Schedule/Regular Uniform*
- *Bible Study for Eighth Graders: 7:15-7:45 a.m. in the Christian Education rooms at the end of the Middle School hallway*

- *Advisory: 10:45-11:15 a.m.*
-

Wednesday, February 20

- *Wednesday Schedule for Grades 6-8*
 - *Special Schedule for Grade 5*
 - *Regular Uniform*
 - *Bible Study for Seventh Graders: 7:15-7:45 a.m. in the Christian Education rooms at the end of the Middle School hallway*
 - *Chapel: 10:45-11:15 a.m.*
-

Thursday, February 21

- *Thursday Schedule for Grades 6-8*
 - *Special Schedule for Grade 5*
 - *Regular Uniform*
 - *Bible Study for Fifth and Sixth Graders: 7:15-7:45 a.m. in the Christian Education rooms at the end of the Middle School hallway*
 - *STEAM Fair: 8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.*
 - *MS Councils Meeting: 9:15-10:00 a.m. in the classrooms*
-

Friday, February 22

- *Friday Schedule/SFES Spirit Dress or Go Texan Day Attire*
- *Go Texan Day*

- *Trimester 2 Ends*
 - *NJHS All School Read Aloud: 7:15-7:45 a.m.*
 - *Advisory: 10:45-11:15 a.m.*
-

Saturday, February 23

- *St. Francis Gala and Auction: 6:00-11:30 p.m. at Royal Sonesta (2222 West Loop South)*
-

Sunday, February 24

- *MS Spring Musical Rehearsal: 1:00-5:00 p.m. in the FAC*

Upper School

From the Division Head

We had another busy week on the South Campus, with visits from The Fontaine Center and Dr. William Stixrud. I encourage you to ask your children about their impressions of both Monday's student focus group and Wednesday's author talk. I continue to be impressed by our students' engagement and thoughtful participation during such events. Please know that it is an honor and privilege to work with your children. Thank you for entrusting their care to us.

Recently, during a conversation with Mary and Jorge Martinez, I was sharing about the gratitude I feel toward my son who (unbeknownst to him) helped me to rethink my conceptualization of learning and what it means to "be educated." When I was in school, I approached learning as memorization and regurgitation of the information I had discerned would please my teachers and earn me a high grade.

My son approached school and learning completely differently than I did when I was his age. He truly learned for learning's sake and was intrinsically motivated to pursue topics that captured his interest and engaged his

passions. I grew up overly focused on grades, even thinking of them as a measure of my worth. I was fortunate to have a do-over moment during my recent graduate school experience—and that experience was a game changer for me.

When I came to work at St. Francis, I was thrilled to learn that we are a member of the Mastery Transcript Consortium. As such, we have the opportunity to be change agents with respect to the measurement of learning. I invite you to learn more about Mastery Transcript by listening to a two-part podcast that includes an interview with founder Scott Looney. Each part lasts about 25 minutes and is linked here: [Part One](#) and [Part Two](#). (You might consider listening to them on your way to and from school, pausing occasionally to discuss different ideas with your child.)

On February 14, we (as an Upper School community) will be reflecting upon, exploring, and challenging our thinking about learning and what it means to “be educated.” We will consider competencies that we value and wish to further develop. I am excited to continue to learn and grow alongside your children—our students.

Sincerely,

Cara Henderson
Head of Upper School

Doodle for Google Art Contest

Calling all students who are interested in participating in the [Doodle for Google Art Contest](#)! This year’s theme is “When I grow up, I hope . . .” and we can’t wait to see the fantastic wishes or practical plans our ninth-grade students come up with. Anything you dream up is fair game, whether it’s sky cities, teleporters, cleaner water, pizza trees, time machines, edible clouds, or Earth-cooling fans.

Artists, here’s what to do:

- Complete the [entry form](#).
- Create your Doodle using any materials you want.

- Write an artist statement that describes the drawing and how it represents something that inspires you. Be sure to also fill out the rest of the required information and sign the entry form.

Submit your Doodle to either Mrs. Chandler or Mrs. Tennant by Monday, March 4.

Please Share the Word! Upcoming US Admissions Tours

Our best advertising is word-of-mouth, so please tell your friends and neighbors to come learn more about St. Francis at one of our Upper School Admissions Tours, which are held most Wednesdays at 9:00 a.m.

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, February 4

- *Day 2 Schedule/SFES Spirit Dress*
 - *Girls Basketball Practice: 4:15-5:45 p.m.*
-

Tuesday, February 5

- *Day 3 Schedule/Regular Uniform*
 - *Chapel: 9:50 a.m. in the Andrews House*
 - *Girls Basketball Game: 6:00 p.m. in Crum Gym*
-

Wednesday, February 6

- *Day 4 Schedule/Regular Uniform*
 - *Online Gala Auction Begins at Noon*
-

Thursday, February 7

- *Day 5 Schedule/Regular Uniform*
 - *Chapel: 9:50 a.m. in the Andrews House*
-

Friday, February 8

- *Day 6 Schedule/SFES Spirit Dress*
-

Monday, February 11

- *Day 1 Schedule/Regular Uniform*
 - *Re-enrollment Contracts Due*
-

Tuesday, February 12

- *Day 2 Schedule/Regular Uniform*
 - *Chapel: 9:50 a.m. in the Andrews House*
-

Wednesday, February 13

- *Day 3 Schedule/Regular Uniform*
-

Thursday, February 14

- *Special Schedule—Humanities Experiential Learning Day*
- *Regular Uniform*

Friday, February 15

- *Day 4 Schedule/SFES Spirit Dress*

Church

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper and Mardi Gras Party Is March 5

Our Annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper and Mardi Gras Party is coming up! Join us **Tuesday, March 5, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in the Wheatcroft Parish Hall** as we feast on gumbo, pancakes, king cake, and Mardi Gras ice cream. During the meal, we'll enjoy zydeco music provided by Rick Keith and friends.

For further details and to RSVP, please [click here](#) or e-mail [Lynn Lloyd](#).

Sports Association Registration Closes February 22

Registration closes for St. Francis Sports Association T-ball, baseball, softball, and fourth- and fifth-grade girls volleyball on Friday, February 22.

This season, we will be hosting multiple clinics exclusively for SFSA athletes, including the following: Volleyball with Coach McMillian, Pitching (Softball) with Coach Cain, and Fielding/Hitting with Coach Cain. We will also host a coaches' clinic for each sport!

[Register online here.](#)

With questions or concerns, please e-mail [Ragan Cain](#).

Join Us for New Member Orientation on March 3

If you started attending St. Francis Episcopal Church within the last two years and have not made your membership official yet, we invite you to become a member of our family by attending our New Member Orientation class on **Sunday, March 3, from 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. in the Hogan Board Room**. (Lunch will be served.) Join Father Bates to learn about our church, our mission, and how membership in Christ's Body at St. Francis can help you deepen your relationship with God.

Please RSVP to Amy Homer via [e-mail](#) or at 832.325.2983.

Discovering Christian Meditation

An opportunity for silent prayer at the church is available:

- Tuesdays, 4:00-4:30 p.m.
- Thursdays, 7:30-8:00 a.m.

These sessions are in the St. Clare Chapel and are led by Father David Price.

We find the roots of Christian meditation in the practice of Jesus recorded in the Gospels and in the content of the Epistles. We see it developed further in the writings of the desert tradition of the early church. Come learn a bit about it, gain a few hints about the practice and, mostly, come and pray.